

## Social Studies, continued

- The colonial period in Georgia
- Georgia's role in the American Revolution
- The impact of events that led to the ratification of the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights
- The Civil War and Reconstruction
- Important events that occurred after World War I and their impact on Georgia
- The impact of World War II on Georgia's development
- The role of Georgia on the modern civil rights movement
- The importance of significant social, economic and political developments in Georgia since 1970
- Georgia's physical features
- Georgia's transportation systems and their economic impact
- The role of citizens under Georgia's constitution
- The role of local and state government
- Georgia's economic growth and development

### Resources on the Web

CCSD Curriculum Guides - <http://www.clarke.k12.ga.us/curriculumguides>  
More on the GPA - <http://www.georgiastandards.org>

#### English/Language Arts

<http://www.2actden.com>  
<http://edtech.kennesaw.edu/jcheek1/larts.htm>  
<http://www.kyvl.org/kids/homebase.html>

#### Math

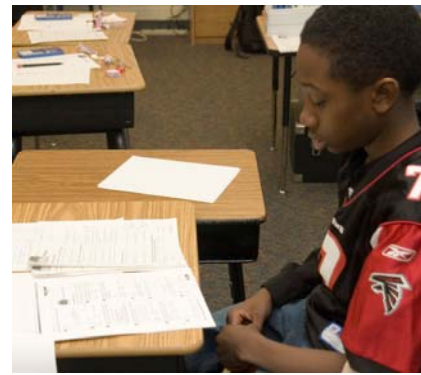
<http://www.thinkfinity.org/home.aspx>  
<http://www.purplemath.com>

#### Science

<http://www.extremescience.com/index>  
[http://yucky.discovery.com/flash/fun\\_n\\_games](http://yucky.discovery.com/flash/fun_n_games)

#### Social Studies

<http://www.googlemaps.com>  
<http://www.americaslibrary.gov>  
<http://www.smithsonian.org>



# What Did You Learn At School Today?

## A Parent's Guide to Eighth Grade Georgia Performance Standards (GPS)



240 Mitchell Bridge Road Athens, Georgia 30606

<http://www.clarke.k12.ga.us>

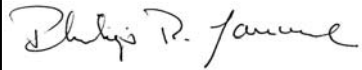
Dear Parent/Guardian:

You have a big impact on your child's learning and performance. To help reinforce what is being taught in his/her classroom, you are being provided below a list of major topics covered in your child's grade this year. It is our hope that this will inspire discussions about what your child is learning in school.

These learning goals come from the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS). The GPS refers to rigorous grade-level standards taught in every classroom across the school district. Our faculty and staff are committed to ensuring effective instructional practices in each and every classroom. And we are pleased to announce that we continue seeing increases in student achievement.

Please allow me to take this opportunity to thank you for your involvement and support of the Clarke County School District. Together, we can ensure that each child succeeds at his/her highest level.

Sincerely,



Philip D. Lanoue, Ph.D.  
Superintendent



## English/Language Arts

English/Language Arts (ELA) in eighth grade challenges students to relate their experiences and learning to individual, social, and cultural ideas. The ELA Performance Standards foster this growth by focusing primarily on strengthening reading comprehension, writing ability, and developing listening and viewing skills needed to succeed in high school.

Students will:

- Learn and apply new vocabulary from all content areas in verbal and written communication
- Demonstrate proficient reading comprehension with a variety of texts
- Examine texts by Georgia authors and deepen a sense of Georgia history through these texts
- Develop personal voice and writing style through the use of strong verbs, adjectives, adverbs and sentence structures
- Produce essays, narratives and research texts by employing the writing process and with peer review

## English/Language Arts, continued

- Use research techniques and technology to produce written texts or multimedia projects
- Discuss and explain social issues through expository and persuasive speech and writing
- Evaluate strategies and content used in various forms of media

## Science

Science in eighth grade is active; the students learn science by doing science. This action helps them to construct meaningful models that allow them to gain understanding of the natural world. In eighth grade physical science, students will specifically explore these topics, generally one per quarter:

- The nature of science
- The laws of matter
- The laws of energy, matter, motion and forces
- Energy transformation

## Math

Eighth grade math students solve a variety of math problems and communicate their solutions/strategies with their peers and their teacher(s) orally and in writing. Key concepts in eighth grade math require students to:

- Determine outcomes and find probabilities
- Compute square roots and express numbers in scientific notation
- Find the missing side length of a right triangle using the Pythagorean Theorem
- Use equations, tables, and graphs to analyze linear functions
- Solve and graph systems of equations
- Solve and graph systems of inequalities

## Social Studies

In eighth grade social studies, students study Georgia geography, history, government and economics. While the four strands are interwoven, ample opportunity is also provided for in-depth study of the geography of Georgia and the government of Georgia. U.S. historical events are included, as appropriate, to ensure students understand Georgia's role in the history of the United States. Areas of emphasis include:

- Native American cultures
- The importance geography plays in the everyday lives of people in these regions